



PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT

This month, I'd like to call some attention to the **Data & Research** wing of **Institutional Planning & Advancement (IPA)**, which supports strategic planning, accreditation, and grants; conducts surveys; responds to data requests; develops data dashboards; and—perhaps most notably—consults with the campus community on using data and insights to inform practice.

Check out the Data & Research dashboards here!

Notable recent additions to the list of dashboards include:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** includes an interactive overview of our strategic plan, a summary of our KPIs across years, and an in-depth examination of each individual KPI.
- **Enrollment by day** shows the rate of enrollment in the days leading up to the start of a quarter, compared to prior years, and can be viewed at a course level.
- **Student survey** includes both the quantitative and qualitative results from the Fall 2020 student survey.
- **Course success** shows course success rates at the college and department levels, including the ability to compare outcomes by demographic. Course-level data will be added in the near future.

The Data & Research team anticipates continuing to add to this list, and will send another update of new dashboards in the spring.

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | MARCH 2021
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

ASBTC

At the end of February, the ASBTC hosted its first ever book group discussion on the book *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, who was the keynote speaker for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January. The conversations were raw and necessary. We were happy to have not only students but BTC employees join us in the zoom call. We look forward to continuing the discussion on race, diversity, and inclusion on campus and in our daily lives.

The Associated Students of Bellingham Technical College (ASBTC) have collaborated with three other community and technical colleges (Whatcom Community College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, and Walla Walla Community College) for weekly virtual trivia contests and games. We will have over one hour of fun on most Wednesday evenings during spring quarter. This is a wonderful chance for students to have some friendly competition and a chance to make new friends along the way. No matter which college wins the games, everyone is bound to have fun and get some much-needed R&R!



	FUN EVENTS SELECT WEDS. 5:00 - 6:15 PM ON ZOOM	
INCLUDES: VARIOUS ROUNDS OF UNIQUE FUN FRIENDLY AND FUNNY HOST		BENEFITS: EASILY MEET OTHER STUDENTS HAVE A BLAST W/ PRIZE ON THE LINE
HOSTED BY SWITCHBOARD GAMES		

GUIDED PATHWAYS IDEAL STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

BTC nursing student, Kainui Rapaport, was selected for the State Board of Community and Technical College's (SBCTC) first Guided Pathways Initiative in Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism Leadership (IDEAL) Fellowship. SBCTC explains the goal of the fellowship "is to encourage, empower and equip IDEAL student activists to advocate for justice, not just in the classroom, but also at the policy and procedural level." As a fellow, Kainui will have an opportunity to work with skilled facilitators and collaborate with other student leaders across the state of Washington. Together, the student fellows will "examine how community colleges can disrupt macrostructural inequity through design principles that affect practices, processes, and policies." Kainui was one of 35 students selected for the 2021 cohort of 558 applicants across Washington State.

CTCLINK



Thanks to everyone's hard at work on BTC's ctcLink migration project. Check out our new website for updates and information about **ctcLink!**

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

Accessibility Resources has been working very hard to streamline its processes. And this means it is convenient for instructors to find all of their accommodated students easily – in one place!

- Go to the BTC Website – www.btc.edu
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and select Employee Login
- Select Accessible Information Management – AIM
- Select Instructor Access – it has the icon with a graduate in regalia
- Enter your BTC credentials – the same ones you use for your email

Take a look and see how this feature can streamline YOUR processes as well! Questions? Contact Mary Gerard, mgerard@btc.edu.

VET TECH

Around Campus during COVID! Our Licensed Veterinary Technician lab techs Madi Castrejon and Syvana King were on their way to set up for a Radiology Lab Exercise!

WELDING & SHIFT

BTC welding technology faculty Rachael Wright was a featured presenter at the Workforce Education Council (WEC) winter meeting with approximately 80 statewide workforce deans, directors, and other personnel in attendance (via Zoom, of course!).

Wright's presentation highlighted BTC's SHIFT (Students Helping build an Inclusive Future for the Trades) program. Launched in 2017 with funding support from a Perkins Non-traditional Gender Employment and Training grant to help recruit and retain women preparing for careers in the trades and engineering, SHIFT has created and delivered training material for faculty and has developed a support network for female students across programs at BTC, with hopes to extend that to include other colleges across Washington.

While SHIFT's focus is on supporting women in programs that lead to careers that are traditionally male-dominated, Wright noted they also recognize need to support other under-represented populations as well as men in programs that lead to careers that are traditionally female-dominated. More at www.btc.edu/SHIFT



CAMPUS VACCINE CLINIC

BTC had two successful weekends of providing COVID-19 vaccinations during our large-scale community clinics serving members of our community. On Saturday, March 6, our pilot weekend, we vaccinated 240 eligible clients and this past Saturday, March 13 we provided 388 vaccinations. We will continue to work with our partner agencies to provide this valuable resource based upon vaccine availability, through June. Thanks to everyone who is contributing to this valuable effort. We are all making a difference and supporting our community.



CDEV 100, SFR, AND TRIO PARTNER ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

Instructor Brandi Adams added a financial literacy component to the CDEV 100 course in Winter quarter! The new Financial Wellness unit of the CDEV 100 class included 2 assignments. First, students selected a **MoneySmarts podcast** relevant to them to listen and reflect on. These podcasts were created by BTC's MoneySmarts program and feature BTC staff as well as community partners, on topics like identity theft, renter's education, healthcare costs, home-ownership and more. CDEV 100 students had practical take-aways such as this student's comment: "Now I know the steps to take to monitor my credit, and who to contact to get my credit report. Experian, TransUnion, Equifax will print up my basic credit file, but I learned that I want to contact the Annual credit report, this will allow me to have a free credit report."

Second, students were offered course extra credit to meet with BTC Student Services staff for a one-hour 1:1 Financial Wellness meeting. This meeting has a structured format for helping students identify their financial questions, review costs associated with college attendance, learn basic financial aid terms, and review their personal financial aid situation and the academic expectations of remaining in good standing. Students leave with next steps, such as following-up with benefits or Workforce Funding programs they may be eligible for, and a BTC staff contact to support them with these goals. Over 1/3 of CDEV 100 students have taken advantage of this optional opportunity so far this quarter!

We learned a lot in our first quarter of this project and are making some adjustments for the future to continue to provide financial wellness education to CDEV 100 students. To learn more, contact Brandi Adams, Amy Navarro, or Gabe Fauber.

PODCASTS

- + **Episode 1: How We Learn About Our Finances with Jaylyn Boydon**
- + **Episode 2: Understanding Credit with Anastasia Polda**
- + **Episode 3: Budgeting and Saving Tips for Students with Leanne Harris**
- + **Episode 4: Renter's Education with Adrienne Solenberger**
- + **Episode 5: Navigating Financial Aid and the FAFSA with Brian Johnson**
- + **Episode 6: Childcare Capacity in Whatcom County with Josh Peck and Kori Olsen**
- + **Episode 7: Worker Retraining and Basic Food Employment and Training with Brandi Johnson**
- + **Episode 8: How to Get a Scholarship with Laura Doss**
- + **Episode 9: Community Resource: Whatcom Literacy Council with Katherine Freimund**
- + **Episode 10: Budgeting with Reid Frederick**
- + **Episode 11: How to talk about money with your kids with Kori Olsen**
- + **Episode 12: Identity Theft with Carmen Marttila - Part 1**
- + **Episode 13: Identity Theft with Carmen Marttila - Part 2**
- + **Episode 14: Accessibility at BTC with Mary Gerard**
- + **Episode 15: Food Pantry with Matthew Santos**
- + **Episode 16: Veteran's Resources with Elizabeth Harmon-Craig**
- + **Episode 17: Accessing Healthcare With Jennifer Burgess**
- + **Episode 18: Buying your First Home with Jodi Litt and Susan Burke**
- + **Episode 19: Employment with Michele Waltz**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's fantastic featured employee is **Ricoh Vigen, Instructional Tech at BTC.**

Q: What's your title here at BTC? Now and in the future?

A: After many years of being a barber and hairstylist, I've been an Instructional Tech for the Cosmetology Program for the past two years, a rewarding (and challenging!) position and program. With the Cosmetology program in transition given recent COVID-19 developments I have been asked to be the Front Lead of the new BTC Vaccination Clinic. I'm honored to be a part of such a valuable community service, and will be trying to make sure our outside greeters and inside front desk people are properly trained and keep the thousands of people flowing through with minimal difficulty... fingers crossed (and your prayers accepted!)

I've been very happy with my time working at BTC and thank everyone for making it such a great place to work.

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?

A: My jobs have usually required me to be extroverted so in my off time I tend to spend time binge-watching weird things like indie films, John Waters films, Maysles Brothers documentaries (you gotta love Big & Little Edie!), Vincent Price and low budget horror movies.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?

A: As a teenager I shook hands with a lace-gloved Stevie Nicks as she was mobbed by a crowd of fans. I was captured in all my awkward teen-angst glory at the end of the 'Stevie Nicks Live At Red Rocks' video. A minor claim to fame whose shelf-life ended long before I quit milking it.

For years I've been trying to teach myself Swedish with minimal success, only retaining such helpful phrases as 'Jag är hundra procent svensk och vänsterhänt!' (I'm one hundred percent Swedish and left-handed) and 'Var kan jag hitta en fruktskål?' (Where can I find a fruit bowl?) I've been planning to visit Sweden. Thankfully they are fluent English speakers.

In the 90's I was a man-about-town with a lot of black eye liner and PVC clothes who hosted some great theme parties ("70s Superstar", "Hollywood Trash") and never entered a Halloween costume contest where I didn't win first place. When I encounter people now who remember those days I usually duck and try to get away quick.

Last year, at age 51, I became a college student for the first time and began online classes as the pandemic began. Next quarter I will receive my certificate in Computer Support. After a year of classes I realize this isn't actually the path I want to follow but it got the ball rolling and we'll see where it leads me. I plan to continue taking classes and one day attain a degree in...something!

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: No pets...I like animals, but I don't like to be tied down!

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?

A: Favorite food: I love Greek, Thai & Italian. Also, I'm a pretty good cook and I like to experiment and try new recipes all the time. My signature/specialty dish that EVERYONE loves is pärontårta (Swedish pear cake.)
Island books would depend on what rabbit hole I'm in (currently Henry Miller and Anais Nin).



Hmm, did someone have a new baby in CISS? What were those sounds we were hearing? Were those cries of a wee one?

No baby cries..., but there is a "new kid" on campus.

Isn't she cute? CISS has a new generator baby!

And Facilities Dave Jungkuntz and Todd Saulsbury led the project.

Some features of our new arrival:

- Powers the server room and other equipment in A Building
- It automatically starts when it detects power outages – so no delay by having to start it by hand
- It is directly connected to the gas line so it won't run out of fuel
- Facilities can connect to it remotely to manage it and get alerts about status and any power issues
- It is quiet, so it won't disturb the neighbors

RUMOR
OF THE MONTH

